THE BOMBAY COURIER.

[PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK,—EVERY SATURDAY AND TUESDAY MORNING,—PRICE 13 RUPEES PER QUARTER].

VOL. XLII.] TUESDAY, 8 APRIL, 1834. [NO. 2326.

BOMBAY AMATEUR THEATRE.

ON THURSDAY next, the 10th. INSTANT, WILL be performed, for the FIRST time here,

The much admired Melo-drama of
THE MILLER AND HIS MEN;
TO CONCLUDE WITH THE MUSICAL FARCE OF
AMATEURS AND ACTORS.

Boxes.....	6	Upper Boxes.....	3
Pit.....	4	Gallery.....	2

Bombay, 8th April, 1834.

NOTICE,

COPIES of Molesworth's Murattee and English Dictionary, may be had at the Persian Secretary's Office, at the reduced price of Rupees (20) twenty, per copy.

Bombay, 5th April, 1834.

જાહીર ખબર.

ખલ્કે મહેરબાન મહેરપરસ્ત અગેઇ યાંની મરાગી પ ઇંગ્રેજી ભાખેની ડીકશનરી છે તેનુ ખરે યાચા ઘરતી ઘરણીયા મછકીટાગી યાંચે ઘછી ગંત ઘર ઇ મઘરતીત પીજરઘરે ઘરખણે મમી પીસ ગીત પીમત મીકતીર.

તાગેકે ૫ ખઘગીજ ઇ ૧૮૩૪.

ઈંગ્રજી મુદ્રાલય મુંબઈ.

SALE by Auction. On Thursday next, the 10th instant, YATES and Co. will sell by public Auction at their rooms, the valuable property of J. FORBES, E-q. comprizing, Crimson silk damask Couches, Chintz ditto, 2 large handsome Jackwood Cots, complete, Tea-poys, Wardrobes, Bookcases, Dining and Breakfast Tables, Camp and Work ditto, ditto with Marble Slab, large and small Dressing Glasses, Screens, Jackwood Chairs, Sideboards, Pictures, Washing and Dressing tables, Sugar Jars with stands, Cambay Carpets, a handsome 8 light Chandelier, Punkahs, an 8 day clock, &c. &c. A variety of Plated ware, Glass ware, a Dinner and Breakfast sett, silver spoons, Muffineers, a handsome pair of Venison Dishes, Curry ditto, &c. &c. Knives and Forks, and a variety of useful articles. As the above will be sold without the least reserve, it will be a desirable opportunity to persons requiring such articles. There is also a small quantity of Beer, Brandy, Claret, Sherry, and Champaigne; a sett of Musical Glasses, and a great variety of valuable Books.

AT 1. P. M.,

A handsome Shigram, a Chesnut steady Buggy Horse, with any other Cattle or Carriages that my offer.

Also, 100 pieces of Europe handkerchiefs on account of those concerned.

ON Sale at DIROM CARTER AND CO.'S Godowns,

Hodgson's Beer, bottled in September, Rs. 6 per dozen.

Sherry in Wood, Rs. 450 at 650 per butt.

Do. in Bottle, Rs. 14 at 20 per dozen.

Madeira in Wood from BLACKBURN AND CO., Rs. 600 per pipe.

3d April, 1834.

PAINTINGS IN OIL.

A Collection of Oil Paintings is now on view, in the rooms formerly occupied as an office by Messrs. SHOTTON and CO. from 11 o'clock in the Forenoon, to 5 o'clock in the Afternoon. The Prices previously affixed to each painting, have been much reduced. Payment in ready cash is expected.

ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTICE is hereby given, that Andiaroo DORABJEE JAMSETJEE Chizgur, Woolen Merchant, has agreed to purchase from Parsee PESTONJEE HORMASJEE Baikaila or Bhabha, a Garden with Buildings on the premises, situated in Khetwaddy, without the Fort Walls of Bombay. Any person or persons having any claim or demand by way of the Mortgage, Inheritable Right, Partnership, Lottery, or otherwise, he, she, or they, are hereby requested to make known the same to the said purchaser DORABJEE JAMSETJEE Chizgur, woolen Merchant, at his Shop in the Bazar Gate Street, by a notice thro' any of the Attornies at Law, within seven days from the date hereof, or else he, she, or they, will be precluded therefrom.—Dated this 7th day of April, 1834.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office—A CODE OF SIGNALS, with a list of Vessels and their corresponding numbers in H. M. service, and the Commercial Navy of Great Britain, together with those belonging to the Port of Bombay. Price, one rupee.

FOR SALE,

THE XIIIth. number of the QUARTERLY ARMY LIST.—PRICE Rs. 3.

Courier Office, 8th April, 1834.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office,

The Oriental Sporting Magazine, from No. 7 to 20, each No.....	3 0 0
Blank Powers of Attorney,.....	0 2 0
Do. Interest Bonds,.....	0 2 0
Do. Policies,.....	1 0 0
Do. Bills of Lading, per set,.....	0 2 0
Do. Respondentia Bonds,.....	0 2 0
Do. Bills of Exchange, per set,.....	0 2 0
Plans of the Island,.....	1 0 0
Traveller's Itinerary,.....	5 0 0
Insolvent Debtor's Act,.....	3 0 0

LETTER-PRESS PRINTING, neatly executed upon moderate terms.

FOR SALE—The BOMBAY CALENDAR and ALMANAC for the present year, containing Rules, Regulations, and other matter of local interest not previously published; together with a List of the Officers of His Majesty's and the Hon'ble Company's Service, now in His Highness the Nizam's Army. Price five rupees per copy

FOR SALE,

THE INDIAN CALENDAR, for the present year, shewing the correlative dates according to the various modes of reckoning time among the HINDOOS, PARSEES, MUSSALMEN, and MALABARIANS. Price, Rupees two.

FOR LONDON, CALLING ON THE COAST AND AT THE CAPE, IF REQUIRED,

THE EUPHRATES, 600 Tons, WILLIAM BUCKHAM, Commander, will sail 1st. May, carries a Surgeon. For plans of cabins and passage, apply to Captain BUCKHAM at the office of DIROM, CARTER AND CO.

FOR PASSAGE TO BORDEAUX,

THE fine fast sailing, French Ship "*Amitié*," burthen 500 Tons, has excellent accommodation for Passengers, and will sail with all dispatch. For terms apply to Captain HERVIEU, on board, or at the office of Messrs. MACVICAR BURN CO.

Church Lane, 8th April 1834.

SUPREME COURT, 2ND APRIL.

TRIAL OF VELJEE, GUNESS, TRIMBUCK, SAKER (WOMAN) AND VALEE (WOMAN) FOR HAVING MALACIOUSLY AND FELONIOUSLY WOUNDED NANEE THE WIFE OF TRIMBUCK..

Nanee (Woman) sworn.

I am a married woman of the Bhoee (fishermen and hammals) caste. My husband's name is Trimbuck—he is the third prisoner, I have been married to him three years. I know the other two male prisoners. The first, Veljee, was the m n who burnt me; the second is Dhunjee, a neighbour of Saker the first female prisoner. Saker is Veljee's mother in-law and my aunt. The second female prisoner is Walee, the sister of Veljee. Shortly after my marriage, I lived at my sister's, whose name is Dharee, but previous to this, and immediately after my marriage, I lived with my husband near Bholeshwar. There were other tenants in the house than my husband and myself, whose names I do not recollect—My husband was a servant in Dhunjee's house, and I lived with him then, not in the same house, but in one next to it. Walee and Veljee lived in one house—up to the date of my husband's apprehension, he lived in the same house. I lived with my husband eight days after my marriage, and on his beating me a great deal, I went to live with the sister I have just spoken of. After some time I was put out of my caste, and was shortly afterwards readmitted upon payment of 55 Rupees, when I again went to live with my husband. My husband took his meals with Saker, during the time that I was absent. I don't remember how long I was then absent. On returning to him, I lived about three weeks with him. He then resided in Sakar's house, and did business in Veljee's. While residing in my sister's house, I saw none of the prisoner's but Veljee, who wished to persuade me to sleep with him. I said nay—he got angry and said "*I'll burn you with a hot iron.*" He two or three times afterwards repeated his proposition to me. I did not communicate this to my husband. I was afraid, thinking that he would believe that I had committed adultery and turn me off. I remained about three weeks as I have said. On the night of the full noon, the two women Sakar and Valee with my husband, beat me very much. This was on the day of Malabar hill fair (26th November.) In consequence of this beating, I left my husband's house, and went to my sister Dharee's house. They beat me, because I had not made the bread ready. My sister is a married woman living with her husband, and the mother of four children. My sister said, "If I keep you in my house, you will again be turned out; so I will get you a separate room, and when your husband comes for you, I will restore you." Accordingly she got me a separate room in Cazee Street, where I lived eight or nine days, subsisting by my labour. One day while I was grinding, the prisoner Dhunjee was going by, and said to him "Brother my husband's ill treatment has obliged me to live separate." Then he went and told Veljee and Sakar, and all where I was living. Then about the third day after t is, as I was sitting eating bred, which my sister brought me, Wallee, Saker, my husband and Dhunjee came, beat me, and took me away to Sakar's house, where my husband resided, and which was from where I lived, about as far as hence to the Church Gate. They took me to the house, and Veljee was standing there, when, from fear, I objected to enter. Then my husband and Dhunjee dragged me by the hair of my head into the house of one Vela Dewa, who lives below in the same house as Sakar. My husband having my hair, and Dhunjee my legs, they dragged me through Vela's house to the back compound, and then upstairs, into Sakar's room. Then a rope was brought and I was tied, when Veljee who had preceded them up stairs was then standing in the room, began to beat me. My wrists were tied together over the back of my head. My husband and Dhunjee tied me. It was a coir rope for drawing water from the Well with which I was tied. Sakar then brought a bill hook and a burning wick for a light, and put the bill hook into the fire place. She put wood in the fire place, the bill hook in the midst of the wood and kindled the wood with the wick. All the five prisoners were present at that time, and no one else. Then Sakar took out the bill hook and delivered it into my husband's hand one native hour after it had been put into the fire. I saw this done, I was tied and they were beating me—I was lying with my legs as well as my hands tied—One foot was before the other, over the ancle at the end of the same rope. My husband threw down the bill hook, he did not know how to do it, when Veljee taking it into his hand and told my husband to go down, and if any one asked him why I was crying out, to say "I have beaten my wife, and she is crying in consequence." Veljee then said, (the bill hook still in his hand) "who will question me about it?" Then as I was tied, Sakar, Walee, and Dhunjee lald hold by me, and Veljee burnt me.

(Chief Justice.—Do not be shamed to show where you were burnt.)

They tore my saree of from between my legs and made me naked. I received about twelve or thirteen burns, * * * * * * * * *

(Here the witness described the manner in which she was burnt which was in such away that we cannot mention it.) I was first burnt here (points, weeping, to where she was burned) a very large burn. I was under this for perhaps half a native hour. I was also burnt on my hands while I struggled—My hands were still behind my neck, I struggled from side to side. I called out very much, but no one came, for fear of being turned out of the caste, as Veljee is the son of the Muccadum of the caste. After the burning was over, they left me there tied, and went out after shutting the doors. They commenced at four P. M. and at five I managed to loose my hands with my teeth, having got my arms over my head. I afterwards loosed my feet and remained there, the doors being fast—On the same night, my sister came with two Police peons, whom I would know by sight. This was about 8 o'clock at night. I remained in the same state, putting on my torn dress. She took me down. On going down I showed the peons the burns on my hands and forehead. I went to my sister's house, whither the peons did not accompany me,—Next morning I went to Mr. Willis's Office, where a Doctor examined all my burns. This way as the day after. I slept that night at my sister's house, that is the Doctor (points to Dr. Keys) I would have died, had it not been for him (We omit this witness's cross examination by Mr. Morley, as nothing was elicited to shake her evidence.)

Dharee, the sister of the last witness, being sworn, corroborates her testimony as to the terms upon which she lived with her husband, and the state in which she found her when she took her to Mr. Willis's Office.

Dr. Keys being sworn, states that he is an Assist. Surgeon on this establishment, and examined Nanee at Mr. Willis's Office on the 13th Dec. in presence of her sister. The first wound was a flat burn on the lower part of the abdomen as if from an iron, and about 4 or 5 inches in length, and about three inches in the broadest part, deep and inclined to slough. It caused a great deal of irritation and consequent uneasiness. The 2d and 3d wounds were so much alike, and so exactly opposite to each other, that the iron must have been thrust down her thigh's when both together. There was also another superficial wound on the left thigh, which from the marks on the skin, distinctly showed the track of the iron, as if she had fallen or lain upon it. It had a curve like a common bill hook or chopper such as the natives use. There were other minor marks upon her arms and face. While he attended her for these injuries, she had fever in consequence for several days, which he attributed to the sloughing which took place on the wound in the abdomen. She was in a state of great irritation and excitement and labouring under fever when he was called in, but with proper care and attention her life was not in danger, although the inflammation was at one time likely to bring on a disease which might have ended in death—He paid no attention to her history about her husband, but lent her treatment till she was well-She was seriously ill for about ten days.

The case for the prosecution being closed the prisoners were put upon their defence, when none of them advanced any thing, with the exception of Trimbuck who stated, that Nanee was his wife of marriage, and having run away from him four or five times, he went to call her when he was beat by her two sisters and their husbands. She was his wife, and he admitted that he had done it.

Seyed Fakroden Nakoda was called, and gave evidence tending to insinuate that the whole presecution was a conspiracy to separate the wife (Nanee) from her husband Trimbuck.

The Chief Justice having summed up, the Jury brought in a Verdict of "Guilty" against all the prisoners; when his Lordship, after addressing them with much feeling and eloquence upon the atrocious nature of their offence, sentenced each of them. to 14 years transportation. *Gazette.*

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ARRIVALS.

Lieut. Chambers, 13th Regt. N. I., from Dapoolie.
Lient. Bainbridge, 6th Regt. N. I., from Bhewndy.
Lieut. Hibbert, Engineers, from Sea.

DEPARTURES.

Lieut. G. K. Mann, Artillery, to Poonah.
Capt. Billamore, 17th Regt. N. I., do. do.
Ensign C. R. Whitebrook, 11th Regt. N. I. to Vingorla.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES

BIRTH,

At Mahabuleshwar Hills, on the 3d inst. the Lady of Major Havelock, H. M. 4th Lt. Dragoons, of a daughter.

SHIPPING REPORT.

ARRIVALS.

April 5th. French ship La Amitié, Hervieu, Master, from Bordeaux, 28th October 1833, and Port Louis 9th February 1834.

Passenger,—L. O. Hebbert.

" Do. Ship Fazel Carrim, Meerbhoy Hyderally, Naquedah, from Siam, 17th Jan.

DEPARTURE.

" 5th.—His Majesty's Ship Magicienne, J. H. Plumridge, Esq. Capt. to the Coast.

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP.—Imogene.
HON'BLE COMPANY'S GUARD-SHIP,—Hastings.
HON'BLE COMPANY'S FLOATING CHAPEL,—Aurora.
FREE TRADERS,.....William Rodgers, Eliza Stewart, and Euphrates.
COUNTRY VESSELS.—Charlotte, Lowjee Family, Charles Forbes, Cornwallis, Shaw Byramgore, Prime, Caledonia, Francis Warden, Maackbar, Helen, Dadaloy, Ann, Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Sir Charles Malcolm, Fort William, Lord Castlereagh, Glenelg, Asia Felix, Hormusjee Bomanjee, Allalivie, Jean, Futtay Salam and Pascoa,
FRENCH.—Mexicain and La Amitie.
DUTCH.—La Esperance.
BRAZILIAN.—Amizade.
PORTUGUESE.—Duke de Beza, Santa Anna, San Francisco de Paula, Setta de Marco, Cæsar, and Cassadore,
H. H. THE IMAUM'S.—Caroline, and Nazareth.
ARAB.—Fattel Kurrim and Fazel Kurim.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, 8 *APRIL*, 1834.

A ship was off the Port yesterday—probably the *Earl of Clare*, from China 20th February.—Several other vessels are said to be on the coast.

No further accounts appear in the last papers from Madras of the expedition against the Coorg Rajah; but by letters of a later date from the same place, it seems that the troops which have been sent against His Highness were to be on the frontiers of Coorg on the 18th ult.;—that another pacific overture was then to be made; and in case it should be rejected, that hostilities were to be commenced immediately.—The Rajah, it is said, on his side, has threatened an irruption into the Company's territories towards Mangalore, where there happens to be, just at present, a very considerable treasure.

We regret to state that a most unfavorable letter has lately been received by this Government from the Court of Directors on the subject of steam communication with home. The Court, we understand, after entering into a long calculation of the expenses of the undertaking, come to the conclusion that they are far too great for the object in view; and observe that at no period since the establishment of British power in India, was a rapid communication with England less wanted than at present. They object, therefore, to the despatch of the *Hugh Lindsay* to Suez last year; and appear to consider her further employment for the same purpose as totally out of the question.

We shall not now attempt to dispute the correctness of their estimates, or assertion as to the advantages of a rapid intercourse with this country—though it is evident that they regard the latter in a political light only, and overlook entirely the numerous other, and perhaps more important objects for which it is intended—these points having already been so thoroughly canvassed that they require no further notice from us. But, we must observe that, with prepossessions so strong as they appear to possess against a compliance with the wishes of the public and the Government of India, it is utterly hopeless to suppose, in their present embarrassed situation—with a territorial revenue £800,000 less then their expenditure,—with considerable apprehensions that their demands on this country, for the payment of dividends, will be met with the greatest difficulty—at a time, too, when they are making every exertion in their power to curtail expenditure,—and with enormous expenses forced upon them by the new Charter—it is utterly hopeless, under such circumstances to suppose that they will sanction the disbursement of a large sum for steam navigation to the Red sea.—Nobody can regret this more sincerely than we do; but it is what we have always maintained; and we are not in the least disappointed by the turn which events have taken. We may go indeed a step further, and say that we are now fully prepared for a decided negative to all the propositions of the Indian Government, which, backed as they are by the weight and influence of individuals deservedly high in the estimation of the authorities at home, are nevertheless too much opposed to the necessities of the times, and the prejudices, and perhaps interests, of the Court, to be readily acceded to.

This contingency, however, it must be remembered has been totally overlooked on the other side of India. The advocates of steam navigation there have allowed themselves to be blinded by the sanguine anticipations of visionaries in the most extraordinary manner, and have launched into expenses which nothing but a certainty of the amplest support from home could possibly have justified. A few days more, therefore, will probably decide their fate; as the *Hugh Lindsay* must arrive in the course of this month; and although it is not likely that she will convey an official intimation of the Court's views regarding the bouns of two lakhs, yet there can be no doubt that private accounts will be received by her regarding them, which will be equally decisive.— But let us suppose that these accounts are more favorable than we have anticipated,—that a prospect for instance is held out of the court sanctioning an outlay of half the sum proposed, viz.—of one lakh of rupees a year. Will any one pretend to say that the Calcutta committee with this sum could go on with plans, which, at their present rate of expenditure, would require two lakhs and eighty thousand rupees per annum at the very least?—And if not, what becomes of "the comprehensive scheme for all India" that has been so much extolled, and, it would appear, so prematurely brought forward?

We must observe, however, that although we regard the Court's late letter, as fatal to the hopes that have been entertained of seeing steam navigation with Europe established at once upon a grand scale, we by no means despair of its ultimate

success if prudently undertaken. The most erroneous opinions are evidently entertained at home of the expenses attending it. And these, though they are not likely to be removed by the trips of the Forbes, may be very much altered by starting a boat upon the most economical principles, and demonstrating, as we have all along contended might be done, that steam navigation if thus conducted, would support itself. This plan, it must be recollected, is all that was at first proposed; and, to it we are now more firmly convinced than ever that the public of India must look as a last resort, —as the only plan in fact which affords the slightest chance of effecting the object in view.

MADRAS.

The Governor we hear is shortly expected back at the Presidency, and that orders have been received to get Government House in readiness for His Excellency's reception. The Governor General will in all probability re-embark for Calcutta from the Western Coast—certainly if the reports of Runjeet Singh's death are confirmed; but to-day's Calcutta papers equally contain not a word on the subject. "H. M. S. *Melville* it is said is to return to the Western Coast for His Lordship.—*Madras Herald, March 27th.*

We refer to some further particulars regarding the Paumben Pass in a letter from Major Sim to the late Captain Dawson; and the following information regarding the nature of the Coral of the Paumben reef we extract from yesterday's *Times*.—"The Coral of the Paumben banks, is not the zoophite of the Mediterranean and the South Seas, but a light, porous, crumbling substance, sometimes cut and shaped into bricks by the Dutch; and more frequently burnt into lime. Of this eciesps of lime the late Fort of Negapatam was built; and so great is the hardness which it acquires by long exposure to the weather, that when Major De Haviland, some years ago, requested a specimen of the Masonry of the Fort to be procured and sent up to him, the iron crows and other instruments used in detaching the blocks, were blunted and bent in all directions by the solidity of the chunam which is far more adhesive than that obtained from shells. A stone capable of his being converted into so valuable a cement would almost pay the expense of its excavation."—*Ibid.*

CALCUTTA.

We have received Mauritius papers to the 25th of January, from which we learn that a violent hurricane more violent than any hurricane within the last six years, occurred in the island on the 26th of January. Its ravages were so extensive, that, for three days afterwards, all business was suspended; every body was occupied in looking after his property and repairing his losses. We shall give a translated account of it to-morrow, confining ourselves for the present the following list of damages sustained by the Shipping at Port Louis:

French Ship *Courrier de Burbon*, Captain Lacrois—stranded and expected to be abandoned.

Eliza Jane, Captain Findlly—stranded—poop carried away,—and otherwise much damaged.

Royal George, Captain Embleton—stranded—with loss of mizen mast.

Drummore, Captain McCallum—mizen mast and bowsprit gone—and other serious damage.

Ceres, Captain Blumpies—stranded—bowsprit carried away—and stern bulwarks down to the deck—and other damage.

Solomon, Captain Coombes—capsized, after losing her foremast.

Pearl, Captain Sanders, and *Eleonora*, Captain Havelock—drifted to the Tron Fanfaron—the first aground and both much damaged.

William, Captain Hutchinson—touched the ground, but little injured.

Bencoolen, Captain Hunt, and *Addingham*, Captain Sedgwick—damaged in their poops and bulwarks.

Three out of five *chasse-marées* sunk: the other two stranded—one of them high and dry at Fort William. A number of Cargo and ballast boats wrecked or otherwise damaged.

The *Chasse marée L'Aigle* belonging to Mr. Jacques Jean, upset with 400 bags of Sugar on board.

The whole line of towing buoys carried away, as well as the flag buoy.

The threatened blow upon the Judges of the Supreme Court has been struck. The Chief Justice and the two Puisne Judges, MM. Colin and Remono, have been charged with perjury and high treason (we take these words from the comments of the *Cernéen*) by Mr. Jeremie, in his capacity of Attorney General, and in consequence the functions of the Court have been suspended for a time, while the matter is under investigation by the Governor and his Executive Council. Report has named several persons as likely to fill the places of the Judges by temporary appointment—a gentleman who came out from England with Mr. Jeremie as his Secretary—an Attorney, also Mr. Jeremie's friend, who not long ago went to New South Wales—and a former Magistrate of Mauritius—but these, according to the *Cernéen*, are mere surmises.

The *Notables*, assembled at Government house on the 14th January, for the election of 72 Assessors, out of whom it rests with Government to select 36 for the duty of the ensuing year. We observe M. Gaillardon's name at the head of the list, having the largest number of votes.

The affair of the prisoners of Grand Port appears to have made no progress.—*Calcutta Courier, March 21.*

Extract from a letter from Raneegunge (Alexander and Co.'s Colliery.), dated 17th March.—

"My palkee top yesterdy was broke through in three places by *hail-stones*, some four inches long, and one of the bearers knocked down by them."—*Ibid.*

AGRA.

INVALIDING SOLDIERS.—The season for invaliding worn out European soldiers and Native troops is now fast approaching, and we consider it therefore adviseable to offer our remarks on the subject of their employment. During the period in which Warren Hastings ruled in India, it was the policy to colonise, if we may use the expression, the jungle portions of the country through means of the veteran and invalid pensioners of our Native army. The consequence has been that a large uncultivated tract of Behar, formerly the proud domain of the Bear and Tyger has been reclaimed and now rivals almost any other district in the Company's provinces, in point of production and population. The peering eye of an Amherst however, either discovered some dangerous result through the dark mists of futurity, or what is much more likely, believed that there was no more jungle land remaining to be located. Whatever might have been the cause, a policy which tends to shed a lustre on the Government of the statesman with whom it originated, has now been discontinued, while few attempts; and most of these fruitless ones, have since been made, to deprive the tyger and the elephant of the territories which have been considered exclusively their own from time immemorial. Now our object is to resort to the old system, and merely to shift the position, that is, instead of settling the Veterans of our army on a waste tract of country in the vicinity of the Rajmahal hills, the efforts now should be directed towards cultivating the whole or portions of that narrow stripe of land, which skirts the Hymalya mountains from the Sutledge to the Berhampooter, and from that again to our boundaries with the Burmese Empire. Not that we propose the whole of this should be attempted at once, but that those spots which are considered most eligible and the most likely to repay the expence and labour of the cultivator, should be first selected, in fact the power in the hands of Government should be concentrated to a focus, and a point having been once firmly established, the extending the cultivation in each direction, would then become a measure of comparatively easy accomplishment. To effect the object however requires a man steadily acted on, and to succeed well it will likewise require the assistance of the Government, and the exertion of the talents of some of its more energetic officers. To prove that it might be executed with advantage would be a useless waste of our own and our readers time. No one will we imagine question it, while some of the acts of the present Government has served to shew, that it too considered the reclaiming those lands from a state of nature was perfectly practicable, and that the scheme was capable of sufficiently remunerating the colonists for the expenditure of their time and capital. In our last number we remarked that it was the duty of Government to reduce the burthens on the country required for support of the soldier to the smallest possible amount, and this object we conceive may be in part accomplished merely by increasing as in this case the quantity of production.

The climate is there different, from that of the other districts in the immediate vicinity. The produce will likewise be different, and the interchange of that produce with the south western provinces would directly tend to the increase of the general wealth of the population. A large tract of jungle which now serves but to charge the atmosphere with unhealthy vapours, spreading disease and death through the neighbouring provinces, would in this case be reclaimed, and would doubtless under such circumstance soon compete in value with the richest portion of the country. Mountain streams which now uselessly waste themselves, would then be carefully husbanded, and be considered as in the Alwar country, the main source of agricultural wealth by the inhabitants.

But we have at last got a glimpse of the mountains, the approach to their base which previously could not be accomplished by Europeans, save at certain seasons without the almost certainty of jungle fever, has now been made easy. Let us immediatley ascend. Here we have a country whose climate is incomparably more congenial to Europeans, than the parched plains of Hindoostan. What good reason can therefore now be urged, why we should not take the utmost advantage of it? The communication with the hills is now open during all seasons of the year, and we submit whether an European corps on the mountains, might be there supported at much less expense, whether it might not be preserved in a far more effective state, and much better prepared for active service when required, than after suffering from a debilitated climate, and the usual injurious effects of an average residence on the plains. The native troops would then on all common occasions, perform the Military duties required in the provinces, while the European corps, who would be more dreaded from not being constantly exposed to observation, would only descend from their lofty perches, in cases where more than ordinary circumstance of emergency demanded their presence.

This however is but one view of the question; let us sketch another. Suppose that in addition to this, the same system which we have recommended with regard to the native, should be pursued with European troops, and that the invalids and time expired men be induced to settle in the hill provinces, forming there the nucleus of European Colonies in these favoured regions. Had we indeed possessed nien of energies and abilities of late years at the head of the Government, and had the political Agents in those provinces been selected for similar qualities instead of on account of their interest, and personal connections, the present proposal would long since we believe have been carried into execution. With the new charter however, a more liberal policy is expected to be introduced, and we trust that the arrangements for laying the foundation of European Colonies in those, we may almost call them unexplored countries, will not be left for the present Governor General's successors. Let the system be once commenced; let the soldiers and non-commissioned officers but be enabled to look to a settlement in these parts as a future reward for active services, and the Government will not find there is any deficiency in the number of candidates for emigration. Kandour and many other districts are eligible situations for a Colony, and were the first difficulties once overcome, we should soon find that officers with their families would be induced to join the infant settlements. These regions we remarked, have as yet scarcely been explored, but the accounts which have been collected tends to prove almost beyond a doubt, that there is no country that could rival them in the extent and number of their natural productions. As an advantage therefore to the world at large, sincerely do we trust that our proposal may meet with the early attention of those who possess the means of carrying it into execution, who would thus materially encrease the Indian commerce with foreign parts, and while improving the condition of the rude and miserable inhabitants of those districts, secure, widen and cement, the present basis of our Eastern dominion.—*Mofussil Ukbar.*

On the Climate of the Fossil Elephant. By the Rev. R. Everest, *M. G. S.* &c.

[Read at the Meeting of the 24th December, 1828.]

Since the discovery of fossil bones of the Pachydermata, and some large Carnivora in England and other parts of Northern Europe, it has been usual to consider them as evidence of a tropical climate having existed in those localities, while the animals to which they belonged were living.

The term has been rather vaguely used; for the Cape of Good Hope, of which country four of the animals whose bones have been found most abundantly are natives, viz. the elephant, the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, and the hyæna, is situated without the tropics, and in a hemisphere much colder than the northern one.

But, barring this, the assertion has been more seriously called in question by Mr. Fleming, a Scotch naturalist, who observed, that the circumstances of certain animals being incapable of bearing a certain climate was no proof that their congeners laboured under a like disability; and he instanced the rein-deer, which by its habits, its food, and its climate, is totally separated from the genus, in which, according to its conformation, it must be ranked.

Unless therefore (he continued) you can prove the identity of the fossil with the existing species, you cannot with propriety draw any conclusion, as to the climate the former may have lived in.

In confirmation of this, we may remark under what disadvantageous circumstances we commonly judge the animals of a tropical climate unable to bear our northern cold. They are mostly individuals who have not even been born in a domestic state, but have been caught wild, caged, and suddenly exposed to a great change of temperature. We see in our own people, and in animals brought with us from Europe, the consequences of such a change, equal to, though the reverse of, the other. What numbers are carried off, and how few can preserve a healthy and vigorous condition with every precaution that can be taken; yet man, the horse, and the dog are, with little exception, the hardiest of existing animals, and the most universally diffused over the globe. We have a marked instance of the liability even of certain varieties of the same species to suffer more than others, in the Newfoundland dog, which, I believe, no one has ever succeeded in preserving alive in India.

The objection of Mr. Fleming was strengthened by the circumstance that the elephant, which was found in Siberia preserved in ice had actually a coat of long hair, such as would have fitted it for living in a severe climate. Mr. Lyell too quotes from Bishop Heber the information that along the lower range of the Himálaya mountains, in the north-eastern border of the Dehli territory, between lat. 29°, and 30° he saw an elephant covered with shaggy hair. I have inquired a great deal, of people used to elephants, respecting this, since my residence in the Dehli territory, but could never find any one who was aware of the existence of such a breed or variety of the animal. One solitary individual was mentioned to me, as having been seen at Dehli some years ago, with a good deal of long hair upon it, but it was altogether an anomaly, being of a dirty white or cream colour, like the state elephants of the Burmese sovereign.

Since Mr. Fleming raised the objection above stated, the discovery of fossil bones of the elephant in Yorkshire, intermingled with those of the Bison, a North American animal, and several species of land and fresh-water shells yet existing in Great Britain, seems to have determined, that the climate, at the period those animals lived, was nearly what it is at present. But it is still a question of some interest, how much that difference was; and our situation in a country, where races of animals similar to those, who bones have been found fossil, are yet existing, enables us to throw some light upon this. I mean, of course, supposing the species to be the same. If we revert to Mr. Fleming's objection that no argument can be drawn from the capabilities of one species, as to those of another, then we must desist from reasoning on the subject, until we can ascertain the law according to which different species of the same genus are distributed over the globe.

Of the six species of Carnivora which were discovered in the celebrated Kirkdale cavern, four are yet inhabitants of Northern Europe, viz. the bear, wolf, fox, and weasel; of the two others, the tiger and the hyæna, the first is sometimes found at the very edge of perpetual snow in the Himálaya, as we learn from Mr. Hodgson's account of the Mammalia of Nepal*. Pennant too mentions it among the snows of Mount Ararat and in Armenia, and it is said to be abundant (see Playfair's Geography) in the northern part of the peninsula of Corea on the eastern coast of China. This peninsula extends from 34° 30' to 43° N. Lat. and its climate cannot differ greatly from that of Pekin in 39° N. Lat., where it is stated that the frost lasts from November to March, and that the thermometer is usually below 20° Fahrenheit at night in winter time. An account too, has lately been published in Calcutta of a trading ship (the Sylph) having been frozen up on the same coast, in Lat. 40° by the 1st of December. So that there can hardly remain a doubt, but that the tiger is capable of bearing a climate even more severe than that of England, probably one approaching to that of the northern coast of the Baltic.

The only circumstances essential to its existence appear to be a great extent of very thick forest, and an abundance of ruminant animals, both which would be the consequence of excess of moisture. It is most numerous, I believe, in Ceylon, the eastern peninsula of India, the Delta of the Ganges, and the vast belt of forests that border the outer Himálaya range; every where, in short, that great moisture, and the vegetation consequent upon it are to be found. Where the climate becomes dry, as in the country to the west of Dehli, the soil sandy, and the vegetation stunted, it is supplanted by the lion, an animal which infested that part in great numbers a few years back, though since the arrival of the English it has become extinct, or nearly so.

I have not yet been able to ascertain the limit of the climate of the hyæna. But there are two animals in the list of the Kirkdale remains, viz. the weasel and the water-rat, that are, at present, confined to high northern latitudes. The first of these (see Pennant's Table of Quadrupeds of Arctic Zoology, vol. I,) extends only as far south as Barbary, and the last no further than the south of Europe, so that, in a degree, they enable us to set a limit to the heat of the ancient climate, as the elephant and animals allied to it do to the cold. The next question, therefore, that occurs to us is,—what extreme of cold these latter are capable of enduring.

The greatest elevation at which the wild elephant is found in the mountains to the north of this, is at a place called Nahun, about 4000 feet above the level of the sea, and in the 31st degree of N. Lat. I have not met with the temperature of Nahun itself in any work, but we have given us in the Gleanings the temperature of Seharunpoor, 1000 feet, and Mussoori 7000 feet above the level of the sea, both places in nearly the same latitude and longitude. They are as follows.

Seharunpur Mean Temperature.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Ap	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
52	55	67	78	85	90	85	83	79	74	64	55

Mussoori.

39	39.5	52	60	72.5	73	65.5	65.5	61.5	60.5	52	40

Now Nahun being, as to elevation, half way between these two, we cannot err greatly in taking the arithmetic means of these numbers for its temperature. Thus, we have,

45,5 47 59,5 69 78,5 81,5 75 74 70 67 58 47,5

for the mean temperature of each month, giving a yearly mean of 64.4. Now the yearly mean of Keswick in Cumberland, which we may assume for that of Kirkdale, is 48°, leaving a difference of 16.4 still to be accounted for.

But we may remark that this climate of Nahun is what has been called an "excessive," in opposition to an insular, climate; that is, one in which, owing to its distance from the ocean, the extremes of heat and cold are very great. Thus, the month of January averages 45.5, and June, the hottest month, in 8 .5, making a difference of 36 degrees; whereas, at Edinburgh, the mean of January for five years is 37. and of July (usually the hottest month there) only 60°, giving a difference of only 23 degrees.

It may be worth while to compare the five coldest months at both places. Taking the average at Edinburgh for five years, and adding one degree for the difference of latitude between that place and Kirkdale, the numbers stand thus:

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Nahun,.....	58	47.5	45.5	47	59 5
Kirkdale, ...	42.1	41.8	38	39.8	42.1
Difference,....	15.9	5.7	7.5	7.2	17.4

So that for the three coldest months in the year, the elephat actually endures a temperature not differing in the average more than 6 .8 Farh. from that of Yorkshire at the same season.

Now we have no reason to suppose the great heats of the summer essential to the existence of the elephant; if, therefore, we alter only these five months at Kirkdale so as to raise them above the minimum at Nahun (45.5), we have a climate, which we may reasonably suppose it capable of bearing the year through. Allowing the differences between each successive month to be as at present, we might place the numbers thus:

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Kirkdale.....	50.1	49 8	46	47.8	50.1

The total number of degrees added to the five months is 40, which would raise the mean of the whole year from 48 to 51. 3. The months of April and October would be warmer than at present; but this would be compensated by the diminished heat of the summer months, which would probably be somewhat cooler.

Here then the argument of Mr. Fleming applies with peculiar effect. Most species with which we are acquainted have certain breeds or varieties which are somewhat more hardy than their fellows. Thus the oxen, and sheep, and horses that are bred in the low pastures of the south of England, would perish in a country where the black cattle and sheep of the Highland of Scotland, and the ponies of Shetland, would thrive. If therefore it be not improbable to suppose that the present elephant of Northern India is fitted to live in an insular climate, the mean temperature of which is about 52° Farh., it is by no means unlikely that a breed somewhat hardier may have existed in a mean temperature four degrees lower, or 48°.

There is yet, however, some further evidence, that the elephant is capable of bearing a climate somewhat similar to that which has been above assigned to it.

Hannibal, on his famous expedition into Italy, took with him a considerable number of elephants, which were probably obtained in Mauritania. A detailed account has been left us of the difficulties he was subjected to, particularly in the passage of the Alps; but it is no where that I can find stated, that the elephants suffered more than the other beasts of burden belonging to the camp. The transport of them across the Rhone is minutely told; and yet, though the army remained four days upon the snow; though Hannibal himself is said to have told one of his Roman prisoners, that he had lost 36,000 men, besides a vast number of horses and other beasts of burden; though he is represented by his adversary Scipio, before the engagement on the banks of Tesino (Ticinus), as having lost two-thirds of his horse and foot in the passage of the Alps, yet nothing is said about the elephants, until the battle of Tribia, when, owing to the severe fatigue, and long exposure so a snowstorm, great numbers of men, cattle, and almost all the elephants perished. Shortly afterwards, we read of a partial destruction of men and cattle in the attempt to pass the Apennines, and that here also seven of the elephants, which had hitherto survived, were lost. One only was left in crossing the marshes of the Arno in the ensuing spring.

Thus, it appears, that these animals, who had the disadvantage of being born in a climate far to the south, and not even reared in a domestic state, endured the extreme cold and privation consequent on the passage of the Alps late in the autumn, and a winter campaign succeeding it. Now the elephant, though capable of sustaining great burdens, is said to bear long marches and scarcity of food every indifferently. These two causes, therefore, must have contributed in a great degree to their loss.

Hannibal recruited his army with men and cattle in the countries he passed through, and was thus enabled to proceed; but we have no account of what proportions of the original expedition, which left the shore of Africa, were living at the time of crossing the marshes of the Arno, and what had perished. In the absence of this, we can only guess at the different capacities of *man*, the horse, the ox, and the elephant, to endure fatigue and cold. Yet did we know nothing of this last, except from the history above alluded to, we could hardly doubt, but that, if gradually inured to a colder climate, in a succession of generations, it would easily bear any temperature above the freezing point.

The freezing point, however, would of necessity set a limit to the existence of any animal of the size and structure of the elephant. In a country occasionally subjected to heavy falls of snow, which remained unthawed upon the ground for several days, such a creature would be unable to move about in search of food, and must consequently perish. On this account,

* Journal A. Soc. vol. I, page 310.

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the elephant of Siberia could not have lived in a very severe climate, notwithatanding its long hair and mane.

It is singular, that the ancients should have had a tradition of an animal somewhat similar, not maned indeed, but crested: "Mirum unde cristatos Juba tradiderit" is the expression used by Pliny in speaking of the elephants of Ethiopia, which were a different breed, it appears, from those of Mauritania.

If we turn to the map of Europe, in the 2nd vol. of Lyell's Geology, we shall find that a great proportion of it was beneath the sea at a late geological pe iod, a circumstance fully sufficient to account for the small difference of climate, which we have supposed to be necessary for the existence of the elephant. We know enough of the laws which regulate the atmospheric phenomena, to be able to assert this change as one that must necessarily have happened. It is needless, therefore, to investigate the matter further,

I have not been able to learn the greatest elevation at which the rhinoceros is to be found, but it cannot be much less than that of the elephant.

There is another question connected with the climate of these extinct animals, and that is the period of their existence. The bones of some of them have lately been found in caverns in the south of France, intermixed with those of men, and fragments of a rude kind of pottery. Some have endeavoured to explain away the direct inference from this fact, viz. that the animals were contemporaneous with the human race, but hardly with success.

We know nothing of Gaul before the conquest of it by Cæsar, nor have we any account of Germany of an earlier date. What species, therefore, may have existed in the wildernesses of these countries, for a thousand years, or more, previous, we cannot determine. The fossil elk of Ireland, which was once termed "antediluvian," is now believed to have existed in the forest of Germany at a comparatively late period. Since the time of the ancients, several large animals have become extinct in regions which once harboured them. Thus the lion has deserted Greece since the time of Aristotle. The elephant has left Northern Africa (I mean that part of it to the north of the great desert), and the hippopotamus the Nile, since the days of the Cæsars. The rhinoceros, which a few centuries back was found as far to the west as Attock on the Indus, is now confined to the forests east of the Ganges. Can we then suppose that in the many centuries previous, during which it was co-existent with man, its limits were not greatly circumscribed? Is it not rather probable that both it and the elephant (which is now limited by the Suttlej) may at no very remote period have been found far west as the Caspian, and that from thence as well as from still further limits, both have gradually retreated, as they are still retreating, before the attacks of man, and the clearing of the forests.—*Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.*

MAURITIUS.

THE HURRICANE OF THE 20TH JAN.

(*Translated and abridged from the Cernëen.*)

For six years, the Isle of France had been without hurricanes, and we began to forget the sad effects of them, when we were cruelly reminded of their disastrous ravages by the awful occurrence we are about to describe.

In the night of Sunday, the 19th of January, the Easterly wind began to freshen, and its force went on continually increasing; but, up to noon on Monday, it had not assumed an alarming character. From that hour, the gusts became more frequent and more violent, and at 3 P. M., the hurricane commenced. It lasted till 9 P. M. blowing with the greatest fury at 6 P. M. The Mercury fell to 11 lines below 28 inches (French measure). The wind veered round from South-east to North, at which point it finally expended itself. The remarkable feature of this hurricane is the immense quantity of rain that fell. Torrents were formed in all directions; small streams became rivers, and their water rose to a higher level than was ever known within the memory of man. To these floods is owing much of the damage that has been sustained. (We omit many particulars of no interest here) The large shed at the Customhouse, newly built, has been entirely destroyed,—a great quantity of merchandize has been damaged or destroyed.—Malabar-plain, on the East side of the town, appears to have suffered most. Two bridges over the Pouce brooke, have been carried away by the stream, the force of which was aided by a quantity of trees and aloes brought down by the torrents from the mountains. The barracks of Petite Montague have been destroyed. In the low parts of the town, the water rose two or three feet over the floors of the houses. The bridges over grande Riviere, nearest to the twon, are carried away, and one between Moka and the Wilhems plains. As far as our information at present goes, all the country has been completely devastated, and many large trees have been thrown down. The canes, that were in a forward state of growth, must have suffered very much.

It is remarkable, that, during the last eighteen years, we have had four hurricanes at almost regular intervals,—the first in February 1818, the second in February 1824, the third in March 1828, and the fourth in January 1834. That of 1828 was the least violent, but its force was, in a manner, divided, there having been two hurricanes with an interval of a fortnight. The village of Grande Riviere presented a complete scene of deluge,—many of the houses were carried away by the torrent,—and the inhabitants of those even least exposed, were obliged to seek refuge on the upper floors. Their carts, and every moveable object, were swept away by the waters with the rapidity of an arrow, The two bridges which, with part of the causeway, have been carried away, had resisted the waters and hurricanes for many years, without injury.

The force of the wind, however, seems not to have been so great as in 1818 and 1824, in which years large buildings were thrown down—among others, the outer wall of the theatre, and a store-house of 124 feet long and 34, wide, built of stone—and two large pieces of cannon were found to have been moved upon their carriages. The shipping also has not suffered in the same degree as in 1818, when upwards of 40 vessels were wrecked or dismasted, besides more than 33 coasting craft. The sudden rise of the waters 4, 5 and 6 feet over the floors of the houses, is the circumstance most remarkable on the present occasion. A Mademoiselle Mancel, and several other persons have been drowned in the rivers. The bridge of Grande Riviere, which rose to a great height above the ordinary level of the river, and was of very solid construction, has been broken. The Pouce and another brook which have a parallel course for some distance, became one stream of immense breadth. A large quantity of Sugar and Rice has been damaged, and the price of the latter has risen in consequence to 3 Drs. 75 Cents. per bag. The owners of property at Riviere du-Rempart appear to have suffered most.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

The last detachment of the 63rd, under Major Fairtlough, embarked in the *Aurora* on Wednesday. They were followed to the beach with the best wishes and acclamations of the whole town.

The inhabitants of Launceston have presented Major Fairtlough with an elegant piece of plate value 100 guineas as a token of the esteem and regard they entertain for that gentleman, who has for the last 15 months that he has been stationed amongst them so arduously and with so distinterested an attention to their general interests, discharged his duties both civil and military.

The Turf Committee has presented Colonel Logan, and the officers of the 63rd with a very handsome piece of plate in token of the patronage that corps afforded the races and the uniform interest manifested by all its officers in the welfare of the colony.

Among the officers of the 63d who remain as settlers in Van Diemen's Land we may enumerate the following, viz. Capt. Vicary, Capt. Nielly, Lieutenaat Grove, Lieutenant Aubin, Lieutenant Barrow, Adjutant Montgomery, Ensign Darling, at present Commandant at Flinders Island, and who has been transferred to the 31st Fusileers, and we believe we may add Dr. Bohan, besides Capt. Wentworth expected to return to the colony when he has delivered up his invalid charge at the home depot, as also Capt. England and Ensign Tytler of the 4th.

Several of those now gone on to India are expected speedily to return as soon as they are able to effect the necessary arrangements, among whom are Major Briggs, Capt. Mahon, Quarter Master Cart, Lieut. Champ, Assistant Surgeon Russell.—*Hobart Town Courier, Jan.* 3.

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN THE ANTARCTIC OCEAN.

The reader is already aware of the discoveries made by Capt. Biscoe, of the Tula, previous to the arrival of that vessel at Hobart Town in 1831, when in consequence of having parted with the cutter Lively, they met in the Derwent as the appointed rendezvous. The Lively, it will be recollected, joined her associate after many deprivations and being compelled to put into Port Phillip, near Western port, to refresh her people in the month of August, 3 months after the Tula had anchored in the Derwent. It was on the 10th of October following, that these vessels again set sail from this port for New Zealand, where they remained among the Chatham and Bounty islands sealing till the 4th of January 1832. On this occasion Capt. Biscoe found that the true position of the Bounty islands was 178 degrees, 26 east, and not 179 as erroneously laid down in the ch arts.

From New Zealand the two little vessels proceeded to the Nimrod islands, said to be in 56 S. and 160 W., but the search was ineffectual, and Capt Biscoe is certain that they do not exist. On the 3d of February in latitude 65. 30. S., longitude 114. 9. W., the singular phenomenon was observed of an ice island falling to pieces, which it did very near the Tula, with a noise like a clap of thunder, and the sea was immediately covered with fragments, only a small nucleus of the original mass remaining together. On the 12th February in latitude 67. 26. S., and longitude 81. 50. W., many birds were again seen with several bump and finned back whales, and no fewer than 150 ice islands were counted from the dock. On the 16th, land was again seen, and on the following it was ascertained to be an island, which Capt. Biscoe called Adelaide island in honour of her Majesty, and in the course of the ensuing fortnight it was farther made out to be the westermost of a chain of islands lying E. N. E. and W. S. W. and fronting a high continuous land since called Graham's land, which Capt, Biscoe believes to be of great extent. The range of islands has also been called Biscoe's range after the discoverer.

Adelaide Island, says Capt. Biscoe, has a most imposing and beautiful appearance, with one high peak shooting up into the clouds, and occasionally appearing both above and below them, and a lower range of mountains extending about four miles from North to South, having only a thin covering of snow on their summit, but towards their base burried in a field of snow and ice of the most dazzling brightness, which slopes down to the water and terminates in a clift of 10 or 12 feet high, riven and splintered in every direction to an extent of two or three hundred yards from its edge. At a distance of 3 miles no bottom could be found with 250 fathoms of line, and round all the islands, the depth of water was considerable. One called Pitt's Island in lat. 66. 20. south., long 66. 33. has many bays and forms with the main land behind, a good harbour for shelter, but the bottom is rocky. No living animal was found on any of these islands, and not many birds, although only a few miles to the northward they were very numerous.

On the 21st February Capt. Biscoe succeeded in landing on what he calls the main land and took formal possession of it. The highest mountain in view was called Mount William, after his Majesty. The place was in a deep bay in which the water was so still, that had any seals been found, the vessels would have been easily loaded, as they might have been laid alongside the rocks for the purpose. The water was very deep, no bottom being found with a line of 20 fathoms close to the beach. The sun was so warm that the snow was melted off all the rocks all along the water line, which made the more extraordinary that they should be so utterly deserted. The latitude is 64. 45. S., longitude 63. 31. W.

Capt. Biscoe after this repaired to the South Shetland island, where he was driven ashore, lost his rudder and very narrowly escaped shipwreck. After touching at the Falkland islands, near which he again parted company with the Lively, he proceeded to St. Catherine's in Brazil, where he learned her total loss on Mackay's island, one of the Falkland's. The crew, however, was saved and brought away by a Monte Video cruiser. He thence returned to London, where the results of his discoveries were communicated by Messrs. Enderby, and published in the journal of the Royal Geographical Society.

From the observations made by Capt. Biscoe, it appears, that in the very high latitudes, when actually as it were within the ice, the wind blows almost uniformly from the south, round by S. E. to E. N. E., which being contrary winds to a vessel in proceeding from west to east, it is recommended that future attempts of the same nature should be made in the opposite direction, that is from east to west. Outside the ice, however, the winds were constantly westerly. The appearance of the aurora australis was only occasional, and when vivid was always succeeded by bad weather. It was not observed to have any effect on the needle.

This intrepid and persevering voyage has strongly revived the probability of the existence in these seas of a great southern land yet to be brought upon the charts, and affording new facilities to the exertions of our fisheries. So strongly impressed with this belief are Messrs. Enderoy, the proprietors of the Tula, that they have again dispatched Capt. Biscoe on the same research. He sailed from London on the 2d August, and he must at this time be entering the icy regions of the South. He is accompanied as passenger in his ship by Mr. Rea, of the R. N., sent out with him under the auspices of the government by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, in order to assist him in the scientific observations which cannot fail to make the expedition most valuable and interesting—*Hobart Town Courier, Jan,* 3.

EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

THE BANK CHARTER.

As nearly three months have now elapsed since the new charter was granted to the Bank, some attention is naturally directed in the City to those advantages, such as they are, secured to the public under it, in the return of notes in circulation, bullion, etc. It would be incorrect to say that much practical good is expected from them in the form prescribed by the new act—that is, by averages, instead of the actual state of the Bank transactions; but people are nevertheless eager to obtain information, now to be given to them for the first time, and to form their own estimate of their utility to the general money business of the country. There is a notion prevalent in some quarters that the Bank Directors mean to avail themselves of some technical ambiguity in the new act, which will bear the construction of making it compulsory on them to give these returns only after the date of the expiration of the old Charter in August, 1834; but we consider this a most unworthy supposition, and that the Bank Directors are wholly incapable of sheltering themselves under any such subterfuge." It would imply, in fact, that they have something to conceal, which no one at present imputies to them. On the con trary, their proceedings generally have made a satisfactory impressiou on a late occasion particularly so, when they discouraged in the most affectual way the wild speculations in produce recently afloat, by refusing to discount bills notoriously connected with thoso transactions.—*Times, Nov.* 15.

PORTUGUESE FORCES.

"The agents of Don Miguel in this country are not inactive. Within the last few days several officers and a large number of men have been engaged for the reinforcement of the Miguelite army and are to leave shortly for one of the ports still in the possession of the Miguelites. Information of these proceedings having, however, been sent to the Ministers of Don Pedro, it is not improbable that before the arrival of the reinforcements at the port of their destination they may fall into the power of the Constitutional cruizers, who will be watching for them.—(Sun.)

"The following is a statement of the respective forces of the Portuguese armies in and before Santarem on the 1st instant:—

DON MIGUEL'S		Men.	DONNA MARIA'S		Men.
Regular troops.	Infantry.	9,760	Regular troops.	Infantry.	7,800
	Cavalry.	2,140		Cavalry.	800
	Artillery.	1,000		Artillery.	600
		12,900			9,200
Irregular troops.	Militia. .. volunteers.	4,000	Irregular troops.	Militia. .. Volunteers.	3,200
		3,200			3,000
		7,200			6,200
	Total.	20,100		Total.	15,400

—*Globe, Nov.* 15.

SEA BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(*From the Voyages of Captain Morrell of New York.*)

'When a sufficient number of penguins, albatross, &c. are assembled on the shore, after a deliberate consultat on on the subject, they proceed to the execution of the grand purpose for which they left their favourite element. In the first place, they carefully select a level piece of ground, of suitable extent, of comprising four or five acres, and as near the water as practicable, always preferring that which is the least encumbered with stones and other hard substances, with which it would be dangerous to have their eggs come in contact. As soon as they are satisfied on this point, they proceed to lay out the plan of their projected encampment; which task they commence by tracing a well defined parallelogram, of sufficient magnitude to accommodate the whole fraternity, say from one to five acres. One side of this runs parallel with the water's edge, and is always left open for egress and regress; the other three sides are differently arranged.

'These industrious feathered labourers next proceed to clear all the ground within the square from obstructions of every kind; picking up the stones in their bills, and carefully depositing them outside of the lines before mentioned, until they sometimes by this means create a little wall on three sides of the rookery. Within this range of stones and rubbish they form a pathway, six or eight feet in width, and as smooth as any of the paved or gravelled walks in the New York Park, or on the Battery. This path is for a general promenade by day, and for the sentinels to patrol at night.

'Having thus finished their little works of defence on the three landsides, they next lay out the whole area in little squares of equal sizes, formed by narrow paths which cross each other at right angles, and which are also made very smooth. At each intersection of these paths an albatross constructs her nest, while in the centre of each little square is a penguin's nest; so that each albatross is surrounded by four penguin has an albatross for its neighbour, in four directions. In this regular manner is the whole area occupied by these feathered sojourners, of different species; leaving, at convenient distances, accommodations for some other kinds of oceanic birds, such as the shag, or green cormorant, and another which the seamen call Nelly.

'Although the penguin and the albatross are on such intimate terms, and appear to be so affectionately and sincerely attached to each other, they not only form their nests in a very different manner, but the penguin will even rob her friend's nest whenever she has an opportunity. The penguin's nest is merely a slight excavation in the earth, just deep enough to prevent her single egg rolling from its primitive position; while the albatross throws up a little mound of earth grass, and shells, eight or ten inches high, and about the size of a water-bucket, on the summit of which she forms her nest and thus *looks down* upon her nearest neighbours, and best friends.

'None of these nests in the rookeries are ever left unoccupied for a single moment, until the eggs are hatched and the young ones old enough to take care of themselves. The male goes to sea in search of food until his hunger is appeased; he then promptly returns and affectionately takes the place of his mate, while she resorts to the same element for the like purpose. In the interchange of these kind offices, they so contrive it as not to leave the eggs uncovered at all; the present incumbent (say the female) making room for the partner of her cares and pleasures on his return from the sea, while he nestles in by her side until the eggs are completely covered by his feathers. By this precaution they prevent their eggs being stolen by by the other birds, which would be the case were they left exposed; for the females are so ambitious of producing a large family at once, that they rob each other whenever they have an opportunity. Similar depredations are also committed by a bird called the rook, which is equally foremost in felonies of this description, and never neglects an opportunity of robbing a neighbour. Indeed it often happens that when the period of incubation is terminated, the young brood will consist of three or four different kinds of birds in one nest. This is strong circumstantial evidence that the parent bird is not more honest than her neighbours.

'To stand at a little distance and observe the movements of the birds in these rookeries, is not only amusing but edifying, and even affecting. The spectacle is truly worthy the contemplation of a philosophic mind. You will see them marching round the encampment in the outside path, or public promenade, in pairs, or in squads of four, six or eight, forcibly reminding you of officers and subalterns on a parade day. At the same time, the camp, or rookery, is in continual motion; some penguins passing through the different paths, or alleys, on their return from an aquatic excursion, eager to caress their mates afrer a temporary absence; while the latter are passing ont, in their turn, in quest of refreshment and recreation. At the same time, the air is almost darkened by an immense number of the albatross hovering over the rookery like a dense cloud, some continually lighting, and meeting their companions, while others are constantly rising and shaping their course for the sea.—pp. 51—53.

SPAIN: POPULATION: TENURES OF PROPERTY: LAW OF SUCCESSION.

We have already had occasion to state generally, that Spain is advancing, notwithstanding all the obstacles which a bad Government and a worse Administration have in course of time, accumulated to retard its progress, and is again returning towards the central sun of civilization. This the reader will find satisfactorily established under the head of "*population*," where it is shown that, after having been long stationary or retrograde, the number of the people in that country has of late years been materially increased; a fact which undeniable in itself, implies of course that the means of subsistence have been augmented, or, in other words, that industry has begun to revive in the midst of the obstructions opposed to its development. It has been said, and justly, that indolence is the national vice of Spain; but it ought also to be stated in qualification of this assertion that the vice in question, though from its generality it deserves to be accounted national, is nevertheless factitious not inherent; it is a vice superinduced by corrupt institutions and bad government, and by no means an original element in the Spanish character. The people are indolent because they have no motive to be active; industry languishes because it is paralysed by corrupt monopolies, odious privileges, and a system of fiscal regulations so intolerably absurd and oppressive as to appear almost incredible. In Spain the restrictive system has been carried to its extreme limit in every department of the civil administration; it may indeed be described as the land of monopolies, privileges, prohibitions, and entails. No species of industry is practically free except that of the contrabandist, which accordingly flourishes, and is carried on with an activity inversely proportional to the indolent apathy which reigns

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in all legitimate occupations. The King, for instance, has the monopoly of all the tobacco sold in the kingdom; and as the people cannot afford to deal with the royal tobacconists, they are reduced to the alternative of either denying themselves that article altogether, or of purchasing it from the smuggler, who, of course, exacts a high premium for risk over and above profits. This single fact may serve as a key to the whole fiscal, financial, and commercial system of Spain; the leading characteristics of which are blind selfishness and obstinate infatuation, whilst its natural fruits are the decay of all legitimate industry, the prosperity of the contraband trade, poverty on the one hand, and demoralization on the other. Nor are the laws affecting real property on a better or sounder footing than those which relate to trade, commerce, and industry. The great privileged corporation of the *Mesta*, for example, is a monstrosity which could only have been born in Spain and suffered to attain its present gigantic and oppressive maturity in that country. It is an organised system of public robbery, placed beyond all control of the general law, and, in its operation, calculated not merely to disturb the relation of landlord and tenant, which, in other countries, it is one great object of the law to conserve and protect, but to render it wholly impossible for such a relation to be constituted at all upon any definite principles of calculation. For how can a tenant know what rent to offer for pastures which, however rich, may be eaten up by the migratory flocks of the *Mesta*, that come like a cloud of locusts and tarry only until all has been devoured? or how can the landlord calculate upon the payment of his rents when by this *damnum fatale* the tenant has been deprived of the natural produce of the soil and left with his flocks to barrenness and starvation? Nor is even this all. By the law of mayorazgos or entail, under the fetters of which three-fourths of all the land in Spain is at present tied down, an additional and still more formidable discouragement is thrown in the way of agricultural improvement; whilst the country is inundated with that greatest of all curses, a poor and beggarly nobility, too proud to engage in any honest and industrious calling, and at the same time too mean even for contempt—the servile sycophants of the Court, upon which alone they depend almost for existence, and the ready tools of any profligate Minister for the oppression of the people. Hence it has with truth been said that Spain is a country where "all are noble save nobility." By the operation of causes, which it is difficult to detect and therefore impossible to explain satisfactorily, two centuries of oppression have failed to brutify the people, in whose character may still be found undebased many elementes of worth and greatness; but it is otherwise with the nobility, whose depravation has been more complete and deplorable than that of the same class in any other country. And this is to be ascribed in a great measure to the law of succession, taken in conjunction with the fundamental principle of the Spanish monarchy, as at present constituted, that all the members of a noble family are *eo ipso* noble. Proud of their birth, profoundly ignorant, and wholly unprovided for, the younger branches of these families would conceive themselves, for ever degraded were they to try to improve their condition by engaging in trade or commerce; yet, by an absurdity peculiarly Spanish, the porter who snores out his siesta on the pavement of Madrid, after having strained his lungs by shouting *Quien quiere agua?* through the streets, is probably a Galician noble who, even if qualified for such employment, would conceive himself for ever degraded by standing behind the counter of the shopkeeper or taking his station at the desk of the merchant. In such a state of society, it is obvious the progress of Reform must be slow. The accumulated vices of ages are opposed to all beneficial innovations. But still there are good grounds for hope as to the future. Spain has at all times possessed noble and free spirits, who, outstripping their age and nation, have shot forward into regions of greater light, and distinguished themselves for an enlargement, liberality, and soundness of reasoning, which would have done honour to any country. The works of Jovellanos would have secured to their author a high place among philosophical patriots and politicians in the most enlightened nation of Europe; and he is not "alone in his glory." Where such men take the lead, the million will in time follow. The good seed has been sown, and sooner or later Spain will reap the harvest. What she most wants is a reform in her civil institutions. But this can never be effected while her political system remains unchanged. Reform, therefore, to be productive of any good, must commence at the fountain head; extrinsic means must first operate political amelioration; and then power, arrayed on improvement must proceed per force, if necessary, to remove those impurities, abominations, and monstrosities which have defiled, degraded, and oppressed one of the noblest nations of the face of the earth. But we must cut short these general observations, and go on to submit to our readers the specific information which we are anxious to lay before them.

II. POPULATION OF SPAIN.—There is no country of Europe the population of which has experienced such extreme fluctuations, and upon the whole decreased so much below its amount in former times, as that of Spain. This has been occasioned by the joint operation of a great variety of causes, a few of which would probably have been sufficient to produce it. Amongst these may be mentioned the invasion of the country by the Moors, which is justly regarded as the origin of the depopulation that subsequently ensued; the contagious fevers and plagues which have at different times desolated the southern provinces and other parts of the kingdom the intestine wars which raged during seven centuries, between the Moors and Christians, commencing in the ninth, and terminating only with the capture of Grenado, towards the close of the fifteenth century; the proscription and expulsion of three millions of Jews and Moors; the neglect of agriculture, and the misdirection of commercial enterprise, consequent on the discovery of America; the baneful effects of a bad Government and of a debasing religion, armed with so powerful an instrument for repressing the expansive energies of the human mind as the Inquisition; the depredations of the Barbary corsairs, which tended materially to accelerate the depopulation of the southern coasts; and, lastly, the institutions of the *mesta*, *mayorazyos*, and *precidios*, which, as we shall hereafter show, served to consolidate and perpetuate the evils which were sapping the foundations of national industry and to preclude the possibility of amelioration and improvement. These are a few of the causes which appear to have produced the declension in question. The chief of them still exist; and although their operation has at times been partially counteracted, nothing short of a radical reform in the whole system of law, government, and policy, can prevent Spain from sinking into the lowest depth of misery and degradation to which a nation can possibly fall. The following details respecting the population of this country in the different periods of the monarchy, will show the extraordinary oscillations which it has experienced; whilst, by comparing these with the causes of depopulation above enumerated, the reader will be enabled to judge for himself as to the method by which it has been effected.

According to the received opinion, Spain, under the Romans, contained 40,000,000 of inhabitants; but accounting this a most exaggerated statement, let us assume the population to have been then only half the estimated amount, or 20,000,000. At the close of the fourteenth century, according to several Spanish writers, the population was as follows —viz. States of Castile, 11,000,000, States of Aragon 7,700,000; kingdom of Granada, 3,000,800; total, 21,700,800. But this estimate, like the former, is probably exaggerated; and we therefore agree with Laborde in thinking, that the population, at a later period, cannot have exceeded 16,000,000. Under Ferdinand and Isabella, at the end of the fifteenth century, it amounted, according to the same authorities to upwards of 20,000,000; but a more probable estimate reduces it to about 15,000,000 In the year 1688, it was 10,000,000; in 1700, at the death of Charles II., 8,000,000; in 1715, under Philip V., 6,000,000 in 1768, under Charles III., 9,307,804; in 1787 and 1788, the last year of the reign of Charles III., 10,143,975. By the census, which was taken in the year 1797 and 1798, it appears that the population then exceeded 12,000,000. It follows, therefore, that from the time of the Romans until the year 1715, the population of Spain had been continually decreasing in the following proportions—viz. from the time of the Romans until the end of the fourteenth century, a period of about a thousand years, 4,000,000; from the close of the fourteenth century until the end of the fifteenth century, a period of a hundred years, 1,5000,000; from the end of the fifteenth century until the year 1688, a period of less than two hundred years nearly 5,000,000 from the year 1688 to the year 1700 that is, twelve years 2,000,000; and from 2,000,000, and from the year 1700 to 1715 fifteen years also 2,00,000. On the other hand, it increased, from the year 1715 to 1768, a space of thirty-three years, 3,307,804; from the year 1768 to 1788, twenty years, 836,171; from the last period to the year 1806, rather more than 2,000,000, making a total increase from 1715 until 1806 of above 6,000,000. In the *Diccionario Geografico* of Minano, the population of Spain in 1826 is estimated at 13,732,172, which would give an increase since 1715, that is, in a hundred and eleven years, of 7,732,172; and even this estimate has been supposed to fall below the truth, although it exceeds that given in the last edition of Antillon. Taking the census of 1826, however, as the closest approximation which has yet been obtained, the population of Spain, compared with its superficial extent (145,100 square miles,) would give about 90½ to the square mile, or little more than half the number upon an equal space in France and England, countries far inferior to Spain in fertility of soil, advantages of climate, and all the other bounties of nature.*—(Laborde, Minano, *Year in Spain.*)

On the subject of the division of the population, which forms one of the most prominent causes of the decline of national industry in Spain, considerable light has been thrown by a statement which was published in 1802, and is referred to as authoritative by Laborde. Assuming the whole population of the kingdom to be then 10,409,879, or 300,000 more than the census of 1788, and 1,600,000 less than that of 1797, which is unquestionably an erroneous assumption, this statement gives the following relative division, which, with reference to the total amount assumed, seems to come pretty near the truth. Of the 10,409,879 individuals of both sexes, 5,204,187 were males, and 5,205,692 were females; the equilibrium of the sexes being thus almost complete. Of the men 3,257,722 were widowers, bachelors, and ecclesiastics; of the women, 3,262,196 were nuns, widows, and "waiters upon Providence;" whilst the remainder, being 3,890,661, consisted of course of married persons. It results from this statement, that there then existed in Spain 6,519,218 individuals of both sexes who did not contribute, or at least were not supposed to contribute, to her population. Of the number of ecclesiastics we shall probably have occasion to speak hereafter. In the meanwhile we may observe, that, exclusive of about a fourth of the population, composed of persons living on their property without doing any thing, Spain, according to the census of 1797, contained 100,000 individuals existing as smugglers, robbers, pirates, and assassins, escaped from prisons or garrisons: about 40,000 officers appointed to capture these, and having an understanding with them; nearly 300,000 servants, of whom more than 100,000 were unemployed and left to their shifts; 60,000 students, most of whom begged or rather extorted charity at night, on the pretence of buying books; and if to this melancholy list we add 100,000 beggars, fed by 60,000 monks at the doors of their convents, we shall find, that, at the period referred to, there existed in Spain nearly 600,000 persons who were of no use whatever in agriculture or the mechanical arts, and who were only calculated to prove dangerous to society. Lastly, having made these and other necessary deductions, we find that there then remained 964,571 day-labourers, 917,197 peasants, 310,739 artizans and manufacturers, and 34,339 merchants, to sustain by their productive exertions eleven millions of inhabitants. These results which, *mutatis mutandis*, are as applicable at the present day as at the time when they were deduced, exhibit a state of society so radically corrupt and debased as to render all hopes of its regeneration very nearly desperate. Idleness is the national sin of Spain:—and with a population constituitonally averse to labour and disposed to seek for subsistance by any means rather than by honest industry; with a government that carries on the work of brutification by all the expedients in its power, and though omnipotent for evil, is utterly inefficient for good and, lastly, with a domineering priesthood, swarming in every street village and hamlet of the kingdom, and amidst the universal misery, fattening on the substance of the land which it keeps in spiritual thraldom and intellectual darkness—with such elements to work on, such powers of evil to neutralize, such an intertexture of vice, corruption, ignorance, and prejudice to break through, he must be a bold physician indeed who should undertake to heal up the foul and festering ulcers that are daily eating deeper and deeper into the vitals of unhappy Spain. Moderate remedies indeed are no longer applicable or available, and the employment of violent ones which alone can operate an ultimate cure, must necessarily bring on a crisis which it is fearful to contemplate.

III. AGRICULTURE, TENURES OF PROPERTY, LAW OF SUCCESSION, &c.—No country in Europe is so generally fertile as Spain, or has equal advantages at all seasons of the year; yet in none is agriculture in a state of such great backwardness and depression. Many causes have undoubtedly contributed to produce this calamity; but one of the principal is the peculiar nature of the tenures by which landed property is held in that country. Three-fourths of the whole territorial surface of Spain, including the lands belonging to the Church, are indivisible, and consist in unalienable *mayrazgos** This term, derived from the word *mayor*, first-born, implies, strictly speaking, the right possessed by the eldest-born of a family to inherit certain property, on condition of transmitting it entire and undiminished to those possessed of the same right on his decease. But usage has greatly extended the import of the term mayorazgo or majorat. For although it properly means only the right of succession to a perpetually-entailed estate in virtue of primogeniture, yet it has come to signify, in addition, the cause which produces the right or the accident of birth, the property which is subjected to its operation, the actual possessor of the property, and the person who stands next in the order of succession.—(Faure, Laborde.)

Mayorazgos, or majorats, are of five kinds:—first the *ognacion rigorosa*, which strictly confines the succession to male descendants in the direct line, to the entire exclusion of females; secondly, the *agnacion artificiosa*, according to which the male heirs in the direct line first succeed, and failing them the males next in degree in the female line; thirdly, the *agnacion de Masculinidad*, which restricts the succession to the males and females of the male line; fourthly, *la regulare* which calls to the succession both males and females, the latter after the former, each in degree, so that the sons come first in order of birth, then the daughters, then the collateral males in the nearest degree, afterwards the females in the same degree, and so on; fifthly, the *saltuario*, which calls those who unite in their person the qualities and conditions required by the founder of the mayorazgo, without reference to any particular line of descent. The greater part of the mayorazgos are constituted in favour of the firstborn; but some are nevertheless settled on the second children, and in many families there are both principal and secondary mayorazgos. The former always belong to the firstborn; the latter can never be united in the same person with the former, and therefore go to the second son: but when, by the death of his elder brother, he comes to succeed to the principal mayorazgo, he must renounce the secondary one, which then passes to the third son, or the next in the order of succession or destination. Property held in mayorazgo cannot be alienated, sold, disposed, or divided by the possessor either in favor of a wife or of children who are not called to the succession; in other words, it is a strict entail, constituted on pretty nearly the same principles with Scotch tailzies, but subject to conditions and limitations, if possible, still more absurd and ruinous, both to the holders and to the country at large. It is usual, however, to adjudge a *viúdedad*, or annuity, equal to a sixth part of the free rental, to the widows of the possessors of mayorazgos, and to the widowers of females whose fortune consisted in mayorazgos; but this alimentary provision ceases and determines in the event of a subsequent marriage; and, from the unsettled state of the law respecting it, it is often the cause of expensive and protracted litigation. All grounds of dispute or contention may however be avoided, by the possessor of the mayorazgo making a formal declaration of his consent to the constitution of a viúdedad, in which case the Council of Castille issues a decree homologating and sanctioning the proposed cession. It sometimes happens that a mayorazgo is saddled with two or even three viúdedades. Suppose, for example, that a wife possessed of a mayorazgo dies, her husband becomes entitled to a viúdedad, and the mayorazgo passes to the next heir; but if he or she also dies, leaving a widow or widower, the latter becomes entitled to a second viúdedad, and so of the next in succession. In this case, the holder of the first viúdedad receives a sixth part of the whole revenue, the holder or the second receives a sixth part of the remainder, and the holder of the third receives a sixth part of the surplus after deducting both; so that three viudedades absorb five-twelfths of the entire income, derived from the mayorazgo. If the possessor of the first viudedad dies or marries again, his annuity accrues to the second, enjoys it in addition to his own as long afterwards as he lives or continues unmarried. So many settlements in mayorazgo have taken place in Spain since the era of their introduction, that few families are without them, and scarcely any landed estate is free from the fetters of these entails. They originated in the desire of some great houses to perpetuate their family name, and to preserve an estate proportioned to their rank and dignity; and example being speedily followed by the rest of the nobility, who in all countries more or less lead the fashion, it ere long extended its mischievous contagion among those who, having no hereditary dignity to sustain, indulged an absurd and ridiculous vanity at the expense of nature, common sense, and their younger children.—(Laborde, Jovellanos.)

The evils produced by majorats are so great, that it will be of little service to impede their progress, unless some still more powerful remedies are applied. In the first place, the families, even in whose favour they were originally established, are now experiencing their oppressive and pernicious effects; and in particular it has been found, that instead of perpetuating great houses, which was the primary object of the institution, this system of entailing has powerfully contributed to their extinction. For if male heirs happen to fail for one degree, or generation, the property of the family, passes, passes away, by means of the females to entire strangers, whilst the collateral branches remain in a a state of indigence and obscurity, and at length die away and are forgotten.

"If there are only daughters born to these noble families, they may, all of them, be entirely disinherited, and see the estates of their father or mother pass into the hands of a nephew or cousin, or sometimes to a ralaitve much more distant, but the nearest in succession, who is entrusted with supporting the honour of their name with their money, a circumstance which must be excessively gratifying to their pride."—P. 84.

And even in the more ordinary case, where the property passes entire into the hands of the oldest son, the brothers and sisters, reduced to a miserable alimentary provision, which the law has fixed at L. 6 sterling, whatever be the fortune of the family, become dependents and beggars: whilst nobility, being hereditary and perpetual, divides, ramifies, multiplies, and degenerates, until, amongst the lowest grades of society, such as Asturian water carries and Gallego porters, may be found the descendants of families with historical names, and the wretch who sleeps like a dog on the pavement can furnish upon the nonce unchallengeable evidence of his lineage and descent. In the *second* place, the keeping up of houses and estates, and the general progress of agriculture is greatly injured by this mischievous system of entails. The possessors of mayorazgos who have no children can feel but little attachment to a property in which they have only a life interest and are of course unwilling to put themselves to inconvenience for distant collateral relations, with whom also they are often, we should rather say, always, on bad terms. The only object, and indeed the constant practice of every occupant so situated, is to extract the utmost he possibly can from the estate during his lifetime, and where the legal but distant heir is an object of aversion, which, in such circumstances, is commonly the case, to lessen the value of the succession by all means that can safely be employed for that purpose. Hence it is, that in most estates under this tenure the buildings are dilapidated, and the land remains in a state of the most miserable neglect.

"From the Bidassoa as far as Cadiz one does not find a single handsome domain. If in Andalusia they build some place of shelter in the midst of the fields (*cortijo*), it does not deserve the name of a house; its walls, white-washed to reflect the heat of a burning sun, are not sheltered by a single tree, nor is there the least verdure which can afford a shade. From this we may judge what will be done for fields under tillage by those who show themselves so careless about what is immediately under their eyes."—P. 86.

A doctrine, derived from the Roman law, and accredited by all the legal practitioners of Spain, has further contributed to accelerate the decline of agriculture, and to envenom all the evils directly resulting from tenures in mayerazgo. According to this doctrine a successor to a majorat is not bound to continue leases granted by his predecessor; for, say the lawyers, as he is not heir, the former engagements cannot be obligatory upon him; and hence the maxim that leases expire on the demise of the lessor, has long been settled law in Spain. The consequence is, that leases are seldom granted for a longer period than four years; and even these brief engagements are insecure as the death of the lessor may at any instant of time deprive the lessee of possession, even during the currency of his lease, or at least render it necessary to enter into a new contract with the successor to the estate. Under such a system, the wonder is not that agriculture should be at a low ebb, but that any portion of the soil is cultivated at all; more especially when we consider the oppressive character of the Government, the total inefficacy of the laws, the consequent insecurity of property, and, above all, the exorbitant amount of taxation. The public interest requires, as Jovellanos long ago observed, that the possessors of mayorazgos should have power to grant long, perhaps emphytentical, leases. This is the first remedy to be applied, and it is the only one which will attract capital to the soil, give a stimulus to industry, and pave the way for that improvement of which this fine country is so eminently susceptible. Perpetual entail is not indeed compatible with a contract which presupposes the alienability of estates; but certainly nothing but good could possibly result from permission being granted to the possessors of mayorazgos to make such a qualified and temporary alienation as, while it preserved in the family the entailed estate, would ensure a more ample revenue, and guarantee the payment by the responsibility of the capitalist to whom it had been made. Lastly, mayorazgos are not less pernicious to the moral character and habits of the people than to the prosperity of the country. They encourage idleness, which is the national sin of Spain, and the principal cause of the degeneracy and mental imbecility by which the upper classes are almost universally characterised. A son who knows that he *must* succeed to his father's estate, a brother or a nephew, who is waiting for the succession of a brother or uncle, is but little disposed in the meanwhile to seek an independence by his personal exertions. On the contrary, he passes his days in indolence and inactivity; contracting debts which he never intends to pay; perhaps relieving the tedium of his existence by vicious and debasing indulgences; and finally sinking into a state of mental imbecility, which unfits him for every thing except becoming a tool in the hands of a crafty priest, and a slave to the mummeries of a corrupt religion. The system of mayorazgos has, therefore, a necessary tendency to make at least one fool in every family; and when it is considered that this fool is by law invested with its whole property, whilst his brothers and sisters are turned adrift on the world, at the death of their male parent, with pittances in many cases insufficient to support physical existence, no argument will be necessary to convince any one that such a system must be as adverse to the happiness of families as it is to the principles of natural justice, and to the prosperity of the country at large. To the younger branches of a family the eldest son must appear as a sort of maleficent being, a despoiler, an object of envy if not of hatred; or if some remnant of natural affection survive the operation of this accursed law, reason and the sad realities of a situation of hopeless destitution will soon conspire to destroy it. In every view, therefore, the institution of mayorazgos has proved glaringly pernicious. It has ruined the families it was intended to support and perpetuate; it has annihilated agriculture in a country where the soil teems with redundant fertility, and the climate is fitted to ripen the productions of every region; it has fostered the national vice—indolence; and it has rooted up and withered those affections and charities which constitute the happiness of families, as well as the honour of our nature and the safeguard of society.*—*Caledonian Mercury, Oct.* 14.

BRITISH NAVY IN 1833.—According to a Parliamentary return, his Majesty's ships and vessels in commission at the commencement of the present year consisted of five first-rates, whose joint complement amounted to 2,910 men; two second rates, 844 men; four third rates, 2,358 men; five fourth rates, 2,255 men; ten fifth rates, 2,799 men; fourteen sixth rates, 2,409 men; thirty-five sloops, 3,685 men; thirty-three yachts, surveying vessels, brigs, sloops, &c,, 1,593 men; thirteen steam vessels 464 men; and twenty-six packets, 754 men. The total amount of wages for the officers and men employed, 22,500 in number, including 12 flag officers, one commodore, 99 secretaries, servants &c. and 2,321, men for reliefs, was £687,375. Pay of able seamen, £1 14s per lunar month.

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* The population of Portugal, in 1826, was estimated at 3,683,400 on a surface of 26,200 square miles, or about 140½ to the square mile; consequently the entire population of the Peninsula, amounted that year, to about *seventeen millions and a half*; and if its rate of increase has been progressive, it cannot at present fall much above short of *twenty millions*.

* Writers of the highest authority value the mortmains of the State and Church at three-fourths of the whole territory of Spain."—(Foy, *Guerse de la Peninsule*, ii, 139.

* "Thus, from the disloyal and unnatural division of the greatest part of the land in Spain, and its ulterior indivisibility, have resulted the ruin of agriculture, and the discouragement of those engaged in it; the languishing state of commerce, which can never be more prosperous than when carried on with the produce of the soil; the want of industry; the moral imperfections of the eldest-born of families; the misery, the thoughtlessness and the hateful disposition of their brothers and sisters; the taste of the younger brothers for a military life, which only tends to destroy, and their aversion to any profession which might enable them to repair the wrongs of fortune; the alterations of consciences; the example of iniquity, so powerful in its influence on human morality; the political oppression of the poor, thus almost entirely deprived of the rights of citizenship; the annihilation almost of personal liberty, which is always so much abridged in countries where titles, honours, and fortune are in the hands of a small number, for whose benefits the laws were either made, or against whom their power is altogether inefficient. In fact, the nobility, who have wherewithal to make themselves respected, cannot be imprisoned for debt, at least unless the crown happens to be the creditor; they cannot be put in the common prisons, nor confined with the other prisoners; the houses which they occupy cannot be seized or sold for debt; nor their horse, nor their mule, nor their arms. At Barcelona they cannot be arrested as prisoners except by the alguazil mayor of the Royal Audiencia, who is always a nobleman himself."

BOMBAY:—Printed and published for the PROPRIETORS, by SORABJEE DORABJEE, at the Courier Press, No. 9, Church Lane, where all communications addressed to the EDITOR, are received.